

Table 69. Selected characteristics of public school teachers: Selected years, spring 1961 to spring 2001

Characteristic	1961	1966	1971	1976	1981	1986	1991	1996	2001
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Number of teachers, in thousands	1,408	1,710	2,055	2,196	2,185	2,206	2,398	2,164	2,979
Sex (percent)									
Men	31.3	31.1	34.3	32.9	33.1	31.2	27.9	25.6	21.0
Women	68.7	68.9	65.7	67.1	66.9	68.8	72.1	74.4	79.0
Median age (years)									
All teachers	41	36	35	33	37	41	42	44	46
Men	34	33	33	33	38	42	43	46	47
Women	46	40	37	33	36	41	42	44	45
Marital status (percent)									
Single	22.3	22.0	19.5	20.1	18.5	12.9	11.7	12.4	15.2
Married	68.0	69.1	71.9	71.3	73.0	75.7	75.7	75.9	73.1
Widowed, divorced, or separated	9.7	9.0	8.6	8.6	8.5	11.4	12.6	11.8	11.7
Highest degree held (percent)									
Less than bachelor's	14.6	7.0	2.9	0.9	0.4	0.3	0.6	0.3	0.2
Bachelor's	61.9	69.6	69.6	61.6	50.1	48.3	46.3	43.6	43.1
Master's or specialist degree ¹	23.1	23.2	27.1	37.1	49.3	50.7	52.6	54.5	56.0
Doctor's	0.4	0.1	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.7	0.5	1.7	0.8
College credits earned in last 3 years									
Percent who earned credits	—	—	60.7	63.2	56.1	53.1	50.3	50.2	46.3
Mean number of credits earned ²	—	—	14	—	9	4	4	—	—
Median years of teaching experience	11	8	8	8	12	15	15	15	14
Teaching for first year (percent)	8.0	9.1	9.1	5.5	2.4	3.1	3.0	2.1	3.1
Average number of pupils per class									
Elementary teachers, not departmentalized	29	28	27	25	25	24	23	24	21
Secondary and departmentalized elementary teachers	27	27	27	25	23	26	26	31	28
Mean number of students taught per day by secondary and departmentalized elementary teachers	—	132	135	127	118	97	93	97	86
Average number of hours in required school day	7.4	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.2	7.3	7.4
Average number of hours per week spent on all teaching duties									
All teachers	47	47	47	46	46	49	47	49	50
Elementary teachers	49	47	46	44	44	47	44	47	49
Secondary teachers	46	48	48	48	48	51	50	52	52
Average number of days of classroom teaching in school year	—	181	181	180	180	180	180	180	181
Average number of nonteaching days in school year	—	5	4	5	6	5	5	6	7
In current dollars									
Average annual salary as classroom teacher	³ \$5,264	\$6,253	\$9,261	\$12,005	\$17,209	\$24,504	\$31,790	\$35,549	\$43,262
Total income, including spouse's (if married)	—	—	15,021	19,957	29,831	43,413	55,491	63,171	77,739
Willingness to teach again (percent)									
Certainly would	49.9	52.6	44.9	37.5	21.8	22.7	28.6	32.1	31.7
Probably would	26.9	25.4	29.5	26.1	24.6	26.3	30.5	30.5	28.7
Chances about even	12.5	12.9	13.0	17.5	17.6	19.8	18.5	17.3	18.4
Probably would not	7.9	7.1	8.9	13.4	24.0	22.0	17.0	15.8	15.7
Certainly would not	2.8	2.0	3.7	5.6	12.0	9.3	5.4	4.3	5.6

—Not available.

¹ Figures for curriculum specialist or professional diploma based on 6 years of college study are not included.² Measured in semester hours.³ Includes extra pay for extra duties.

NOTE: Data are based upon sample surveys of public school teachers. Data differ from figures appearing in other tables because of varying survey processing procedures and time period coverages. Detail may not sum to totals due to rounding.

SOURCE: National Education Association, Status of the American Public School Teacher, 2000-01. (Copyright © 2003 by the National Education Association. All rights reserved.) (This table was prepared August 2003.)